

THE DISTRIBUTION OF, AND OTHER NOTES ON,
SOME BIRDS OF TANZANIA - PART II

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The first part of this paper appeared in *Scopus* in March this year (Fuggles-Couchman 1984) and the following notes should be read in the context of the introduction to that part. As this paper is intended to focus attention on apparent gaps in the information on the distribution of some birds in Tanzania, in order to save space other notes have been kept to a minimum.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Numbers in brackets following reference to specimens are identification numbers of skins deposited at the British Museum (Natural History).

Coracias naevia Rufous-crowned Roller

In view of the few records of this species from Tanzania (Britton 1980) it is worth noting its occurrence in the Wahoga area, south of Usa in Arusha District, at 1200 m, in February 1943. Other records from Kongwa, December 1947 and May 1949, Kilingali, February 1952, and from between Itigi and Tabora in May 1956, can be added to the scattered records mentioned by Britton (1980).

Coracias spatulata Racquet-tailed Roller

This uncommon species was recorded only once, in miombo to the west of the Uluguru Mountains, in Morogoro District, in April 1938.

Eurystomus glaucurus Broad-billed Roller

In addition to numerous records from the Eastern Region, all in September to November, one bird was seen at Lengopiron, in the Crater Highlands, in vestigial forest at 2500 m in February 1945.

Upupa epops Hoopoe

Britton (1980) states that this species is occasional in Dar es Salaam in April to June. It has also been recorded there, in well-treed areas, calling freely in November and December, and birds have been seen in January. Other records are from Morogoro District in July 1931, and from the north of Kilosa, at Kibedya and Idibo, in August 1932. Adults were watched feeding young at a nest in a rotten branch of an *Albizzia* sp. at Monduli on 4 December 1942.

Phoeniculus minor Abyssinian Scimitarbill

The range given by Britton (1980) lacks sufficient definition in NE Tanzania, where it occurs widely from the Hanang area at Katesh, through Makuyuni and Masailand to Monduli and the dry acacia grasslands to the north of Mt Meru, to Ngare Nairobi and southeast to Gonja at the foot of the South Pare Mountains.

Bycanistes brevis Silvery-cheeked Hornbill

This species was common in the evergreen lowland forest on the Ruvu River at Kibungo, at the eastern foot of the Ulugurus at 430 m, where R.E. Moreau and the author watched a male in September 1937 collecting material, presumably for lining a nest. A single bird appeared in Government House grounds in Dar es Salaam in July 1955, and was seen regularly until September that year. It has also been recorded from Mahenge in May 1952.

Tockus erythrorhynchus Red-billed Hornbill

The range given by Britton (1980) should be extended eastwards from Kiliman-

jaro to include the semi-arid country to the east of the South Pare Mountains and northwest of the West Usambaras, where it was recorded in June 1942.

Lybius diadematus Red-fronted Barbet

While Britton refers to this species as a rather uncommon bird, in Masailand Elliott (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946) found it the commonest barbet of the vast area of the Masai steppe, and widely distributed there. In the south it reached Kilosa District, to the east of Dodoma, where it was seen in December 1952. This defines rather more precisely the range given by Britton (1980) to the south and east.

Lybius lacrymosus Spotted-flanked Barbet

A record from Ngulu at the southern foot of the North Pare Mountains in June 1942 lies somewhat to the east of the general range given by Britton (1980). A female (46/41) of the race *ruahae* was collected on the edge of gallery forest on the northern slopes of Mt Hanang in February 1946.

Lybius melanopterus Brown-breasted Barbet

The range given by Britton (1980) for eastern Tanzania should be extended to include Dar es Salaam District. A female (36/6), one of three seen, was collected in January 1936 in the Mkamba area, on the southern border of the district, at 200 m, in an area of open bush and scattered trees.

Lybius torquatus Black-collared Barbet

In eastern Tanzania Britton (1980) gives the range as coastal, inland to Morogoro and Dodoma. That should be extended to the southeast of Morogoro to include Ulanga District, where it was seen at Kiberege in March 1933.

Trachyphonus erythrocephalus Red and Yellow Barbet

The description of the range of this species in Tanzania given by Britton (1980) is somewhat indefinite and it is worth noting that it is widely distributed from Lembeni, at the western foot of the North Pare Mountains, through much of the Masai steppe, to Kongwa.

Trachyphonus usambiro Usambiro Barbet

When a female (46/7) of this species was collected at the southern foot of Mt Hanang in February 1946, *usambiro* was still considered a race of d'Arnaud's Barbet *T. darnaudii*. At the time it was noted that the song duet was quite unlike that of *darnaudii*. D'Arnaud's Barbet is known in the Kipare language as *Muhokivuta*, a very good onomatopoeic name for it. Both birds appeared to make the first part of the call *muho* and one bird added *kivuta*. In the case of *usambiro* the duet resembled the winding of a clock with the second bird contributing *ticktock* at the end.

Indicator variegatus Scaly-throated Honeyguide

This species was recorded from widely scattered areas including Kibungo Forest at Morogoro (430 m) in September 1937; in vestigial forest in the Uvidunda Mts at 1700 m (male 35/31) in July 1935; forest edge at Ol Molog, NW Kilimanjaro at 1700 m (male 42/69) in December 1942 and in the depths of evergreen forest on Mt Hanang at 2000-2200 m (female 46/38) in February 1946. It was also seen in the Crater Highlands at 2100 m in January 1945 and in the South Pare Mountains at 600 m in July 1942.

Prodotiscus regulus Wahlberg's Honeybird

This species was found in the dry *Acacia tortilis* grasslands in the lowlands to the northeast of Mt Meru at 1400 m (male 46/64) in February 1946 and was recorded from scattered forest patches at Ol Molog at 2000 m in August 1960. These two records are worth noting, for while Britton (1980) states that there are records from the northern parts of Tanzania, no locality from the north-

east is included among those that are mentioned.

Prodotiscus zambesiae Eastern Honeybird

A bird, originally identified as *P. insignis ellenbecki*, was collected by M. Morgan-Davies, Park Warden of Lake Manyara National Park, in 1961. Presumably that should now be included under *zambesiae*, and provides an additional locality for the species in Tanzania. The skin was placed in the park's collection.

Jynx ruficollis Red-throated Wryneck

In addition to the female (38/15) collected in August 1938 at Kingolwira, this elusive species was also recorded from Nachingwea, southern Tanzania, in 1950, well to the east of Nakapanya, the eastern limit of its southern range given by Britton (1980). Another locality not mentioned by Britton is Loliondo, in north Masailand and north of the Crater Highlands, where E.G. Rowe collected a male and female in October 1931 in forest. Both skins were deposited at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) and, together with 38/15, are the only ones of this species in that collection from Tanzania.

Calandrella cinerea Red-capped Lark

This species ranges to the east of Arusha (Britton 1980) and was nesting on the northwestern slopes of Kilimanjaro at Ol Molog, at 1800 m, in May 1945.

Calandrella somalica Rufous Short-toed Lark

The range as given by Britton (1980) "...from the Arusha area and Crater Highlands to the Athi and Kapiti plains" is insufficiently explicit and should be widened to include the northwestern slopes of Kilimanjaro to the east. In 1942-45 flocks of this species were frequent round Ngare Nairobi, up to 1700 m. Two males (42/59, 45/20) were collected in December 1942 and June 1945 respectively. Most records of this lark in northern Tanzania were of flocks, particularly in the period December to June.

Eremopteryx leucotis Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark

The range given by Britton (1980) should be extended eastwards from Arusha to include the lower northwestern slopes of Kilimanjaro at Ngare Nairobi, where it was recorded in June 1945. Its occurrence at Kongwa in May 1949 and at Kilingali in February 1952 should also be noted, as apparently extending the range in the Central and Eastern Regions of Tanzania.

Mirafra africana Rufous-naped Lark

This species was recorded in scattered scrub and thorn grassland near Dodoma township in January 1954, a locality that lies outside the ranges for the races *tropicalis* and *transvaalensis* given by Britton (1980). The bird was probably attributable to the race *tropicalis* as that western race is shown as ranging to Singida and Iringa, and this species was never recorded west of Kidugallo, the western limit of the range given for the race *transvaalensis*.

Mirafra africanoides Fawn-coloured Lark

The range given by Britton (1980) for this species should be extended eastwards to include northern Kilosa District at Geiro, where it was seen in January 1952.

Mirafra rufocinnamomea Flappet Lark

The range given by Britton (1980) should be extended westwards to include Kilosa District where it was common in the Kiliangali area. Its flappet-flight was a constant feature of the area in November 1951.

Hirundo abyssinica Striped Swallow

An unusual nesting site was found at Digo Digo, Sonjo, where a nest had been applied to the underside of a branch of a fig tree, some 6 m from the ground.

The spout faced downwards at about 45 degrees, and just below the entrance was a small branch which served as a perch. The structure was well-protected from rain by its position under the branch.

Hirundo fuligula African Rock Martin

This species has been recorded at Masasi, southern Tanzania, at 300 m associated with houses, providing an additional low altitude locality to those mentioned by Britton (1980). On Mt Hanang it appeared round Werther Peak at 3100 m.

Hirundo smithii Wire-tailed Swallow

Britton (1980) remarks on the few breeding records away from man-made structures. It is therefore of interest to note a nest found on 20 January 1960 on the underside of a tree fallen across a stream. The nest of the usual type was only 60 cm above the water. The underside of the nest was a mass of hornet combs.

Psalidoprocne albiceps White-headed Rough-wing

In addition to the three localities in NE and E Tanzania mentioned by Britton (1980) this species has also been recorded from the road round the edge of Ngorongoro Crater, where two birds were seen at 2000 m in breaks in the forest, in August 1945; from Mt Hanang at Katesh, where a small number were hawking over a furrow in February 1946, and from the forest on the mountain and at 3200 m, where it was seen scattered over the open moorland at Werther Peak. *P. albiceps* has also been found at Lolkisale Mt and Ufiome Mt, as well as in the Sonjo area to the north of the Crater Highlands. In E Tanzania, five birds were recorded in open glades in the rain forest on the north side of the Ukagurus, north Kilosa District, at 1850 m, in December 1952.

Psalidoprocne pristopectera Black Rough-wing

In addition to its occurrence in the North and South Pare Mts and round Mts Kilimanjaro and Meru in NE Tanzania, this species was recorded in the Crater Highlands at Lengopiron and Nainokanoka, and at Mbulumbulu where it was nesting in September to December in 1942-44. Further south it occurred at Dareda in southern Mbulu District, and on the northern slopes of Mt Hanang on the edge of gallery forest.

Riparia cincta Banded Martin

In NE Tanzania this species ranges south to Mt Hanang, at Katesh, and a small flock was recorded in February 1952 at Kilingali, well to the east of the southern inland localities mentioned by Britton (1980).

Riparia paludicola African Sand Martin

The range given by Britton (1980) for the northern region of Tanzania should be extended south from the edge of the Crater Highlands to include Lakes Tlawi and Babati, in Mbulu District, where this species was recorded in September 1943 and February 1959 respectively, and Lake Manyara where it was seen in August 1959. Small numbers were seen near the edge of all three lakes, and at Lake Manyara the birds were in company with Eurasian Swallows *Hirundo rustica* and Banded Martins.

Corvus albicollis White-necked Raven

The White-necked Raven was almost the most characteristic bird around Mt Hanang in February 1946. This may have been a seasonal occurrence for, after about 45 minutes of rain, a considerable concourse of this species together with many Black Kites *Milvus migrans* congregated at 18:20 over Shesyet, on the eastern slopes of the mountain. There were at least 200 ravens, and the whole flock of ravens and kites circled round and round at some height, drifting southwards along the edge of the high eastern cliffs, to disperse after

some ten minutes, flying off to the mountain slopes.

Corvus splendens Indian House Crow

Colonization of the mainland at Dar es Salaam by this species would seem to have been at a much later date than that at Mombasa in Kenya. The author's first records of this species in the vicinity of Dar es Salaam were of six birds on Honeymoon Island, 4-6 km off the coast, in June 1953, and again in 1954. The first record for the mainland was not obtained until August 1958, in Dar es Salaam township, near Government House.

Turdoides aylmeri Scaly Chatterer

The range of this species, presumably the race *mentalis*, given by Britton (1980) should be extended northwards from Ngorongoro up the rift valley to the SE shore of Lake Natron, at Gelai (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946), and to Engaruka, where a party of four was seen in February 1945. Two birds were also seen in September 1958 50 km north of Arusha, a locality not included in the range for either the race *mentalis* or *kenianus*.

Turdoides hypoleucos Northern Pied Babbler

The first record of this species in Tanzania was from the semi-arid thorn bush in the extreme northwest of Kilosa District at Kibedya, where a male (34/26) was collected in June 1934. It is worth noting that this species was frequent in small parties at Kilingali, 100 km south of Kibedya, where a female (52/4) was collected in April 1952 in less arid country. It was also recorded from Mbulumbulu in May 1945, an additional locality to those given by Britton (1980) in NE Tanzania, and 100 km west of Arusha.

Turdoides melanops Black-lored Babbler

Britton (1980) makes no mention of this species occurring east of Tarime in west Tanzania. The range should be extended southeastwards to include the Mt Hanang area, where a female (46/59) was collected from a party of three in February 1946 near Katesh, in *Acacia tortilis* scattered tree grassland, at 1750 m. (Fuggles-Couchman 1953)

Turdoides rubiginosus Rufous Chatterer

This babbler was found at Mangola Springs in January 1960, a locality lying between the ranges of the races *heuglini* and *emini* as given by Britton (1980).

Campephaga quisqualina Purple-throated Cuckoo Shrike

Britton (1980) gives the range of the race *martini* as reaching Oldeani. It also occurred to the east of Oldeani, in the Crater Highlands at Mbulumbulu, where a female was seen in gallery forest in April 1946 at 1800 m, and it was recorded 110 km south of Oldeani on the eastern slopes of Mt Hanang on the edge of the forest, where excellent views of a male were obtained in February 1946.

Andropadus importunus Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul

To the localities mentioned in Britton (1980) may be added Mahenge, where a bird was heard singing in December 1951. Mahenge is 120 km south of the southern border of Kilosa District, the eastern and southern limits of the range given by Britton.

Andropadus milanjensis Stripe-cheeked Greenbul

Mt Monduli should be added to the localities given by Britton (1980) where this greenbul has been recorded. Birds were seen and heard singing in the forest and on the forest edges in November 1942 and October 1959. Mt Monduli is 60 km west of the Arusha NP, the western limit of the range of the race *striifacies* given by Britton.

Chlorocichla flaviventris Yellow-bellied Greenbul

This species was recorded from Mt Hanang in February 1946, a locality lying somewhat west of the range of the race *centralis* given by Britton (1980). A male (46/39) collected on the mountain at 2100 m was assigned to the race *occidentalis* at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) and the record published as such (Fuggles-Couchman 1953), but a recent check has shown it to match a long series of *centralis* from Tanzania (P. Colston *in litt.*) as the ranges for the two races given by Britton (1980) would suggest it should.

Nicator chloris Nicator

This species was heard in full song in April 1954 in the foothills of the Uvidunda Mts, at Kidodi, Kilosa District, 45 km southwest of the Uluguru Mts, and a locality not included in the range given by Britton (1980).

Coccypha caffra Robin Chat

Two localities, lying apparently on, or outside, the limits of the range broadly sketched by Britton (1980) for this species, include the Uvidunda Mts, where it was collected in May 1935 (35/45) in vestigial forest at Chonwe, at 1380 m, and the North Pare Mts where it was seen in June 1942 on forest edges at Kilomeni at 1550 m.

Irania gutturalis Irania

The occurrence of this species at Geiro, north Kilosa, is worth recording as that locality lies to the south and east of Naberera and Dodoma respectively, the southern limits given by Britton (1980). One bird was seen on 26 December 1952 while a male (46/1) was collected in the northern foothills of Mt Meru on 17 January 1946. The southernmost record for the species in Tanzania is that provided by J.S.S. Beesley near Mbeya (EANHS OS-C 1983).

Monticola saxatilis Rock Thrush

A regular visitor to the Kingolwira area of Morogoro District in 1937-39 in January and February. It was also seen in February 1946 on the southern slopes of Mt Hanang up to 1800 m.

Myrmecocichla nigra Sooty Chat

Britton (1980) suggests that this species might occur south of Lake Victoria in Shinyanga or Mwanza. It is therefore of interest to note that it was recorded in July 1957 from Geita, 90 km southwest of Mwanza.

Oenanthe isabellina Isabelline Wheatear

To the few records of this species south of 4S may be added Kingolwira, where it was recorded in February 1939.

Oenanthe lugens Mourning Wheatear

Britton (1980) states that this species is known in Tanzania only from the Crater Highlands, Lake Manyara and Mt Meru. There is a fourth locality, the Aitcho Scarp on the Karatu-Mbulu road, some 25 km north of Mbulu township, and 50 km south of the Crater Highlands, where it was frequent in April 1959 among the rock and scrub on the scarp.

Oenanthe pileata Capped Wheatear

Two records are worth noting. Britton (1980) states that virtually all dated records from the lowlands of SE and NE Tanzania, and including Dar es Salaam, are for April-September. One bird recorded at Dar es Salaam was seen on 20 March 1954. At Kilingali this species was recorded up to November in 1951 when it disappeared, suddenly returning there on 13 June 1952, after the first grass burn. At Mbulumbulu, NE Tanzania, males were in full song and displaying on 10 October 1942 and one collected (42/35) had much enlarged testes.

[To be concluded]